

Russian Ambassador to U.S. Criticizes RT's Foreign Agent Registration

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Russia's ambassador to the United States Anatoly Antonov (Stanislav Krasilnikov / TASS)

Russia's ambassador to the United States Anatoly Antonov has [slammed](#) the Kremlin-run RT news network being designated a U.S. foreign agent as Moscow mulls retaliatory measures.

RT's chief editor Margarita Simonyan and the U.S. Department of Justice on Monday [announced](#) that RT's American branch had met a deadline to register as a foreign agent.

The Foreign Agents Registration Act (FARA), which was designed to target Nazi propaganda, has been a driving force behind escalating U.S.-Russia tensions in recent weeks. In a January U.S. intelligence report, RT and Sputnik were singled out for contributing to Russia's influence over the 2016 U.S. presidential election.

Related article: [What You Need to Know About RT's Pending Foreign Agent Registration](#)

Official documents [show](#) a local production company called T&R Productions has registered as an agent of a Moscow-based entity owned by the Russian government. The company said it was “not sufficiently aware of” who funds the entity.

During a visit to RT’s Washington office, Russia’s newly appointed U.S. ambassador, Anatoly Antonov, described RT's registration as “a bad thing.”

“We see this as an unfriendly step,” the state-run TASS news agency [cited](#) Antonov as telling reporters.

He also expressed his support for RT during the visit, [saying](#) “we’re very concerned about what’s happening around RT and want to assure you that we’re with you.”

“It’s highly important that you paint a real picture of what’s happening in the world.”

Russia could strike back at all foreign media, not just U.S.-based outlets, in retaliation, the Vedomosti business daily [reported](#) on Monday. CNN, VOA, Radio Liberty and Deutsche Welle are expected to face restrictions in legislation that could be passed by lawmakers as early as this week.

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